

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/090,589

Examiner

ALI NEYZARI

Applicant(s)

RETTNER ET AL

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 2/28/02 and Pre Amendment filed 5-10-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39 and 45-48.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 2/28/02 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/16/02, 5/12/04, 9/29/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Ali Neyzari

5-12-2005

ALI NEYZARI
PATENT EXAMINER

Preliminary Amendment Acknowledgement

Receipt is acknowledged of First Preliminary Amendment filed on 2-28-2002 and Second Preliminary Amendment filed on 5-10-2005.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-39 and 45-48, drawn to an apparatus for recording data comprising an optical source and a structure having a transmission resonance corresponding to a waveguide mode, classified in class 369, subclass 112.27.
- II. Claims 40-44, drawn to an apparatus which consists of a metallic structure having an array of features that couple the radiation to at a least one surface plasmon mode of the structure, classified in class 369, subclass 121 or class 385 sub 33.

During a telephone conversation with Daniel Johnson on 5-10-2005, a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-39 and 45-48.

Claims 40-44 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Johnson on 5-10-2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Non-elected claims 40-44 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-39, 45-48 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 27, 36, 37, 45, more particularly define the structure and method of directing optical radiation onto a data recording medium which consists of a metallic structure with optical aperture with specific dimension to support optical radiation propagating in a waveguide mode of the aperture and resonantly coupling

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optical radiation into the metallic structure. The optical radiation includes a frequency that matches a transmission resonance of the waveguide mode.

These particulars, combined with remaining claim elements are not suggested in the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALI NEYZARI whose telephone number is 571-272-7622. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9:00 AM TO 5:30 PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALI NEYZARI
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2655
5-12-2005

ALI NEYZARI
Primary Examiner
